



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **School Committee Minutes 09/27/2012**

*Approved by Arlington School Committee September 27, 2012*

*Arlington School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, May 24, 2012  
6:30 p.m.  
Public Hearing on School Choice  
Arlington High School  
School Committee Room – Sixth Floor  
869 Massachusetts Avenue  
Arlington, MA 02476*

**Present:** Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Chair, Mr. Judson Pierce, Vice Chair, Ms. Leba Heigham, Secretary, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Ms. Cindy Starks and Mr. William Hayner and Mr. Paul Schlichtman.

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Robert Spiegel, Human Resource Officer, Ms. Siobhan Foley, AEA Representative, Ms. Ashley Smith and Ms. Caroline Merta, Student Representatives and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant

**Absent:** Dr. Wallis Raemer, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Kathleen Lockyer, Interim Special Education Director and AAA Representative.

Students exited at 7:40 pm  
Ms. Foley exited at 8:38 pm

### School Choice – Public Hearing, School Choice Policy JFBB

Dr. Allison-Ampe opened the meeting at 6:34 pm and informed the committee that a Public Hearing for School Choice was scheduled, and asked if anyone was here to speak on School Choice.

No Public Participation on School Choice

Dr. Bodie explained the School Choice policy JFBB is an annual decision and noted that our district has recommended that the committee vote not to admit non-resident students under the terms and conditions of the Inter-district School Choice Law (M.G.L. 76:12).

**Mr. Thielman moved not to admit non-resident students under the terms and condition of the Inter-district School Choice Law, seconded by Mr. Hayner.**

**Voted: 7:0**

Dr. Allison-Ampe closed the Public Hearing and opened the Regular School Committee meeting.

### Opening Remarks

Dr. Allison-Ampe congratulated the Quiz Show team for making it to the semifinals, and provided a quote from Charles Richards on the calendar. "Don't be fooled by the calendar. There are only as many days in the year as you make use of."

Dr. Allison-Ampe informed the public that tonight's School Committee Agenda did not include Redistricting, and that the Community Relations Subcommittee would be holding a Special Public Hearing. The public informed the School Committee that a flyer was distributed to their homes encouraging them to come to the School Committee tonight to discuss the Redistricting Plans. Ms. Starks said that no one from the School Committee sent out the flyers and all School Committee Meetings are posted to the website, Town Clerks Office with the agenda's included. The Arlington Advocate and the School Website, and Town Clerks

Office have all posted the Community Relations Subcommittee Public Hearing on Redistricting, for Thursday, May 31, 2012 at 6:30 pm in the School Committee Room.

Dr. Allison-Ampe introduced our two student representatives: Ms. Ashley Smith and Ms. Caroline Merta to the meeting as well as AEA Representative, Ms. Siobhan Foley.

#### Public Participation

Mr. Greg Thompson-Gray Street resident wished to discuss his concerns with Redistricting Plans on the impact the proposed buffer zones(H) on Bishop and Brackett and wanted to know what the annual cost would be for the administrative to manage all the Redistricting in the future.

Mr. Dennis Corbett, Winter Street resident for 63 years spoke on his concern that St. Agnes School is without a crossing guard and suggested to include adding Traffic Supervisors to the next agenda.

A parent (did not provide her name) suggested to Dr. Bodie that she post the Redistricting Map she plans to propose to the School Committee for approval to the school website, so the community can review the map.

#### Arlington Enrichment Collaborative and the Arlington Youth Health and Safety Coalition involved in a project with Ottoson Middle School students.

Ms. Mary DeCoursey, Community Health Specialist, Mt. Auburn Hospital, Ms. Diana Weisner, Director of Arlington Enrichment Afterschool Program and Ms. Colleen Ledger, Arlington Youth Health and Safety Coalitions and teacher Ms. Kelsey Craig, who created the eight week class on social norms and student Mr. John Angel, collaborated together with the Sanborn Foundation to provide an after school program at the Ottoson Middle School on being Tobacco Free. John Angel said he and his friends enjoyed the early morning meetings with friends and the discussions on what it means to him as a basketball player to be smoke free and to encourage others of this positive choice.

Ms. Weisner invited everyone to attend the Gallery of photo's: The Tobacco Free Photovoice Project at the Ottoson Middle Schools on Thursday, June 7, 2012, 4:30 – 6:00 pm.

#### Building Bridges to El Salvador. 4<sup>th</sup> grade Teachers

Dr. Kerry Dunne, Director of Social Studies and TAH Grant, Ms. Elizabeth Gray, Volunteer, Ms. Anita Calcaterra, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Brackett School, Ms. Siobhan Foley, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Thompson School, and Ms. Sarah Marie Jette, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Hardy School spoke on the town wide collaboration to provide a relationship with sister city Teosinte in El Salvador to Arlington, MA. Each teacher discussed their past experiences working with the Peace Core and compared the work to that of when they went to El Salvador to Build the Bridges of the sister city and expressed the importance they bring to their community a curriculum which combines Social Studies and English Language Arts to the children from the village of Teosinte. Arlington has provided town wide scholarships from the Arlington Education Foundation, MLK, Jr. Birthday Celebration Foundation to help fund the learning from international friendship.

#### School Calendar 2012-2013

Dr. Bodie presented two draft calendars to the School Committee, draft 1 and draft 2. Draft 2 includes two additional no school days for Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah and extending the school year to June 21, 2013.

The committee spoke on the emails they all received from parents and teachers with their concerns with both calendars. Ms. Heigham suggested bringing forth a motion first before a discussion of the two calendars was made.

**Ms. Heigham moved to adopt School Calendar 2012-2013 draft 2, which includes two additional no schools days, September 17, and September 26<sup>th</sup>, and extend the school year two days to June 21, 2012, seconded by Mr. Pierce.**

Mr. Pierce suggested that the planning of the school calendar be made much sooner and that the start date of school should be earlier than Thursday. Mr. Hayner supports draft 2 and informed the committee that the difference between the two calendars was the last day of school on draft 2 would be June 21, whereas draft 1, with school on September 17 and September 26 the last day of school would be June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Heigham understands the challenges for the school to decide adding additional no school days, but said the needs of staff and the community are changing and since we have a policy in place we need to change the policies and look for ways of equity. Mr. Schlichtman will support draft 2 and informed the committee that we need to abide by the starting date to be after Labor Day and said usually the impact of the new no school days could only be one day, due to one or two of these non schools days falling on a weekend.

Ms. Starks supports adding the two no school days for Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah but said the issue is pushing us so late in June if we do have five snow days, and suggested that school starts earlier.

Dr. Bodie informed the School Committee members of the reasoning on the Early Release Days and the first day for Kindergarten students.

Dr. Allison-Ampe wanted to provide parents' concerns with the district adding two additional no school days to the full School Committee and suggested offering one no school day instead of the two no school days, but due to time Ms. Heigham suggested not to hear all the concerns aloud, since all of the emails were distributed to each committee member. Mr. Hayner said after reading the additional emails and listening to Ms. Starks concerns on finishing so late in June, he is not in favor of the draft 2 calendar and he was unsure of which calendar he would support.

After continued discussion, Dr. Allison-Ampe offered the following amendment to the main calendar motion.

**Dr. Allison-Ampe moved to amend the motion of the calendar and proposed No school on September 26<sup>th</sup> and to have school on September 17<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Mr. Hayner.**

**Voted 1-6, Dr. Allison-Ampe voting yes**

***The Vote on the original motion to adopt School Calendar 2012-2013 Draft 2, with the two additional no school days on September 17<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.***

***Voted: 5-2, Ms. Starks and Dr. Allison-Ampe voting No, Motion passed.***

*Dr. Allison-Ampe first made a motion to direct the Community Relations Subcommittee to create a recommendation about the inclusion or exclusion of certain religious holidays (Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Good Friday) as no-school days in future years and report back to the full School Committee by the first meeting in December, 2012. The recommendation will incorporate but not be limited to community feedback about the positive and/or negative aspects of these as no-school days, relevant rates of absenteeism seen in the recent past, and any contractual issues.*

*Dr. Allison-Ampe withdrew the motion and made the following motion instead:*

***Dr. Allison-Ampe motioned to direct the District Accountability/Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment (DACIA) to create a recommendation about the inclusion or exclusion of certain religious holidays (Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Good Friday and Christmas Eve) as no-school days in future years and report back to the full School Committee by the first meeting in December, 2012. The recommendation will incorporate but not be limited to community feedback about the positive and/or negative aspects of these as no-school days, relevant rates of absenteeism seen in the recent past, and any contractual issues, seconded by Thielman.***

***Voted: 4-3 ( Mr. Schlichtman, Mr. Hayner, Mr. Pierce voting No)***

***Motion passes***

#### *Update on 2011-2012 District Goals*

*Dr. Bodie provided a brief update and said the curriculum groups have met and reviewed the Common Core Standards in Math and ELA.*

#### *Update on Thompson Rebuild*

*Ms. Diane Johnson said the utility work had begun this week and the foundation work will begin next week. Dr. Bodie will keep the School Committee members posted when a breaking ground ceremony takes place.*

#### *Superintendent Report*

*Dr. Bodie congratulated the Quiz Bowl students, the US Globe report on ranking Arlington 26<sup>th</sup>, the award given to the Ottoson Middle School student for the Arlington Human Rights Commission, Dr. Bodie attended the Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers Greater Boston Region First Annual Recognition Breakfast, along with Brookline, Andover, Lexington. Kathy had said all residential customer received the Arlington Report to the Community 2012, and that the Arlington School Committee Community Relations Subcommittee will be holding a Public Hearing on Redistricting Plan and the presentation to the full School Committee will be on June 7<sup>th</sup> with questions and answers and the final vote will take place on Thursday, June 14, 2012.*

*Dr. Bodie also informed the community that on the last day of school June 20, 2012, all students will be dismissed at noon with no lunch, and that the art show is at Town Hall until June 12<sup>th</sup> on the second floor and informed everyone too, that MCAS in Science is coming up.*

#### *Subcommittee & Liaison Reports*

*Policies & Procedures* - Mr. Pierce said the Policies & Procedures subcommittee will meet to review the holiday policies and continue to review File J.

*Budget* - Ms. Starks – none

*Community Relations* - Ms. Leba. Heigham stated the Community Relations will hold the Public Hearing on Thursday, May 31, 2012 at 6:30 pm in the School Committee Room and will listen to public comments and charge the Redistricting Committee to go back or approve to go forward with the plan.

*Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment & Accountability* - Mr. Jeff Thielman said he will hold a meeting to discuss the motion made tonight on Non School Days.

Facilities - Mr. Bill Hayner said he will meet with subcommittee by the end of the year.

Kindergarten Advisory Committee Mr. Bill Hayner said the committee just added an additional meeting in order to complete the report to the School Committee and will provide an abbreviated report to the full School Committee on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Legal Services Review- none

Chair - Dr. Allison-Ampe informed the committee that the only day most members could meet and add a Special School Committee Meeting would be on Thursday, June 7, 2012.

**Mr. Thielman motioned to move that the Arlington School Committee add a Special Meeting, on June 7, 2012 and start the meeting at 7:00 pm, seconded by Mr. Heigham.**

**Voted: 7-0**

Summer Schedule for School Committee Meeting

Dr. Allison-Ampe suggested holding a summer meeting and Dr. Bodie recommended that the School Committee members attend the Administration Retreat like last year or put a meeting on the books for late August. Dr. Allison-Ampe will work out a date and inform the committee. Dr. Ampe also updated the committee on Town Meeting votes, and Ms. Starks announced that the Senior Prom is on Friday, May 25, 2012 and that students would be promenading on the front lawn of the high school at 5:15 pm, and all are welcome.

Consent Agenda

All items listed with an asterisk (\*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so request, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence:

Approval of Warrant: Warrant #12156 Dated May 10, 2012, Total Amount: \$436,683.66.

Approval of School Committee Minutes: none

Ida Robbins Scholarship recipients: Two AHS seniors with highest GPA

**Ms. Starks moved to approve the Consent Agenda of the Warrant and the two Ida Robbins recipients, seconded by Ms. Heigham.**

**Voted: 7-0**

Secretary's Report

Ms. Heigham reported on all correspondence received:

Notice of passing of Lucile Corcoran, retired Secretary, OMS Memorial Day Program, Emails on Redistricting Concerns: Greg Thompson, Emails on School Calendar concerns Amy Speare, Jeff Thielman, Nicole Hayes, Patricia Lynch, Matthew Walsh, Carol Andrus, Dennis Geller, Dr. Bodie email on draft Calendar, Kristin Alexander, Gretchen Dietrich, Chris Carmody, Draft minutes from April 12, 2012 to May 10, 2012. Mr. Hayner's motion Take a holiday article from Dr. Bodie, Legal Advisory on Deadline for School Choice Participation from Stephen Finnegan, Esq., Charting The Course Notice, and MASC reminder Deadlines notice, Save the Date for Staff Recognition Distinguished Service Award for May 30, 2012, LABBB Collaborative Special Olympics hosted by Lexington Public Schools article, Brackett School Newsletter, May 21, 2012, High School Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers Annual Breakfast notice, Legislative Bulletin from MASC dated May 18, 2012.

Executive Session

**Mr. Pierce moved to enter into Executive Session at 8:55 pm for the purpose to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union and/or nonunion personnel or contract negotiations with union and/or nonunion in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect, on Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Superintendent position and to conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect, Collective bargaining may also be conducted and provide an Update on Executive Minutes Review Subcommittee and exit only for the purpose of adjournment, seconded by Mr. Hayner.**

**Roll Call: unanimous**

Adjourn

**Mr. Thielman moved to exit out of Executive Session at 10:00 pm, seconded by Ms. Starks.**

***Roll Call: Unanimous***

***Mr. Schlichtman moved to adjourn at 10:00 pm seconded by Ms. Starks.  
Voted: 7-0***

*Respectfully submitted by  
Karen Fitzgerald  
Administrative Assistant  
Arlington School Committee*